

82.

K. **A D V I C E**

**To all Free-Holders, and other Electors for the Ensuing
P A R L I A M E N T.**

B *ESIDE the many other Mischiefs which would have followed, if the Bill to prevent Occasional Conformity had passed, it would in Course have turn'd out a considerable Number of Officers in the Army, and Navy, who would rather have laid down their Commissions, than be bound under the Penalty of losing their Offices, and Paying an heavy Fine to boot, never to go, upon any Occasion whatsoever, to any Dissenters-Meeting: By which means, the QUEEN would have been depriv'd of the Service of many of Her Able Commanders, than which, scarce any thing could, as the War now stands, have been more Hurtful to England, or more Advantageous and Welcome to France. And since they who carried on that BILL, were not only sharp-sighted enough of themselves to have foreseen this Danger, but even after it was shewn them, drove on that BILL the more eagerly; it is thence evident, that their ill-will to their Moderate Neighbours, had so far prevail'd upon them, as to engage them to promote that which apparently favour'd the Interest and Arms of France; to the great hazard of the Ruin of their Native Country, England.*

Wherefore, it greatly behoves all Electors at the next Choice, to take especial Care that they do not put any, who did appear for that BILL, into a Capacity to bring the like Mischiefs upon this Nation hereafter. This relates to all those that were for that Fatal Bill: And is of it self sufficient to perswade, as well as justify all Electors, in refusing to trust any of them with that Power again.

But as for those that were for Tacking that BILL, they Soared yet an higher and more dangerous Flight; whereby they plainly shewed, that rather than not reack their Spleen upon Dissenters, they would withhold from the QUEEN the Necessary Supplies of Money which were intended Her, and thereby deprive Her of the Means to either Raise New Forces, or Maintain the Old: Whereby France might have obtain'd an easie Victory over Her Forces Abroad, and have found an open Passage hither.

Let all True English-Men Consider this well, before it be too Late; lest otherwise they Repent when it is too Late.

**Some REFLECTIONS upon the foregoing Paper,
Entituled, Advice to all Free-Holders, &c.**

W *HAT those other Inconveniencies were, the Author of this Paper hints at, his extraordinary Zeal would certainly have inform'd us, if he had known them; from whence we may reasonably conclude there were none. And who those Officers are, either at Sea, or Land, that would have laid down their Commissions rather than Conform to the Church of England, even at the Expence of never going to a Dissenter's Meeting, I believe is a pretty hard Matter to make out: For the Officers he speaks of, whether Admirals, Generals, Collonels, Captains, &c. if they are capable of Serving their Queen and Country as they ought, must be Men of Sense, Honour, and Courage: Now, how inconsistent are those Noble and Generous Qualifications, with that mean, low-spirited Vice, Hypocrisy? And that*

that *Occasional Conformity* is the lowest and basest of all *Hypocrisies*, has been plainly prov'd by so many several Pens, and is so obvious to every Man of Common Understanding, that it would be mis-spending Time and Paper, to enter upon that Debate.

But that our Author is in the right, when he says, That the Persons who were for the Bill to prevent *Occasional Conformity*, *did promote the Interest and Arms of France*, is undeniable; and the Battel of *Blenheim* is a very good Instance of it: Where his Grace, the *Duke of Marlborough*, was so kind to the *French* Generals, that he lent them his own Coach in the Day of Battel; so fond of their Conversation, as to bring them over into *England* with him; and so delighted with the Pomp and Pageantry of the *French* Army, that he thought fit to adorn *Westminster-hall* with a considerable part of their Colours and Standards; Favours that will never be forgotten in *France*, because they were done by a Man who was openly for the *Occasional Bill*, to the hazard of the Ruin of his Native Country, *England*.

And now, Gentlemen, (to use our Eloquent Author's own Words) *It behoves you at your next Choice, not to put any who were for that Bill, into a Capacity to bring the like Mischief upon you hereafter.* But since our Author has not thought fit to tell you what that Mischief was, and how brought upon you, give me leave to inform you, That the Persons who were for the Bill, being a very great Majority in the House of Commons, had it in their Power to bring in, and carry what Bills they thought fit: Now by virtue of this Power, they disposed of your Money, (tho' not without an equal proportion of their own): But to what end was this done? Why to put it in the Duke of *Mar-*'s Power to make a Compliment to *France*. They also (which was barbarous, and never to be forgiven them) took care their Money should be duly apply'd, and as far as in them lay, call'd all those Persons to an Account, who had either imbezel'd or misapply'd any part of it: But our Honest Friends in the House, the *Occasional Conformists*, did all they could to prevent this hard and severe Usage: And good reason they had for it; for all the Persons that had been guilty of these Misapplications, were of their own Party, and the Party (you know) always hangs together, or at least ought to do so.

So much for that *Fatal Bill*: Now for the Tackers of it: Those High-Flyers, that rather than not reack their Spleen upon Dissenters, would with-hold from the Queen the necessary Supplies of Money that were intended Her. This is a Terrible Accusation, and if true, I pray Gentlemen oppose them every where.

But first let's hear what they have to say for themselves. Why truly they say, The Bill neither could, nor was intended to hurt the Dissenters, for they always keep to their Separate Congregations, and never Communicate occasionally, unless for Places of Burthen, Imposed upon them; in which cases, they are by the *Test-Act* obliged, under very severe Penalties, to qualifie themselves: But by this Bill they would have been eased of that, there being a Clause in the Bill, exempting all Persons who cannot qualifie themselves, from serving in Places of Burthen or Expence: So that this Bill would have affected none but such Hypocrites as hang hovering between the Church of *England* and Dissenters, and who would be of any, or of no Religion, rather than lose an Opportunity of getting Preferment. And as to With-holding the Queen's Money, when there is so much occasion for it, they really thought that a speedy passing of the Money-Bills, had been the readiest way to raise Money for Publick Uses; and a quicker dispatch of Business of that kind, no House of Commons ever made, (for which they had the Queen's Thanks): And if the Land-Tax Bill had been Tack'd, it had passed that House yet sooner; and if it had not gone further, the Fault had lain somewhere else.

Now, Gentlemen, if all this be true, (and indeed I see no reason to question it), then the Accusation is false and unjust in every part of it; and if so, all true Englishmen will be for doing Right to the Injur'd, and Vote for those Gentlemen who have been scandalously aspersed for serving their Queen and Country faithfully.

